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Docket No. 1829-4004US1**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): SUSAN A. SLAUGENHAUPT, ET AL.

Group Art Unit: 1645

Serial No.: 10/041,856

Examiner:

Filed: January 7, 2002

For: GENE FOR IDENTIFYING INDIVIDUALS WITH FAMILIAL DYSAUTONOMIA

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

In response to the Communication from the Examiner dated February 7, 2002, Applicants respectfully submit herewith the following amendments and remarks. Applicants have filed a petition and paid the appropriate fee for a three month extension of time extending the due date to file this response up to and including July 8, 2002.

Please amend the application to read as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 5, second full paragraph

In another embodiment, DNA is amplified using the following oligonucleotide primers: 5'- GCCAGTGTTTTTGCCTGAG - 3' (SEQ ID NO: 82); 5'- CGGATTGTCAC TGTGTGC - 3' (SEQ ID NO: 83); 5'- GACTGCTCTCATAGCATCGC - 3' (SEQ ID NO: 84). In another embodiment, the assessing step further comprises an allele-specific oligonucleotide hybridization assay. In another embodiment, the allele-specific oligonucleotide hybridization assay is accomplished using the following oligonucleotides: 5'- AAGTAAG(T/C)GCCATTG - 3' (SEQ ID NO: 85) and 5'- GGTTCAC(G/C)GATTGTC (SEQ ID NO: 86). In yet another embodiment, neuronal tissue from an individual is screened for the presence of truncated IKBKAP mRNA or peptides, wherein the presence of said truncated mRNA or peptides indicates that said individual possesses the FD1 and/or FD2 mutation in the IKBKAP gene.